

**To:** Lee, Monica[[Lee.Monica@epa.gov](mailto:Lee.Monica@epa.gov)]  
**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 9:29:58 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

**From:** Harder, Amy [<mailto:Amy.Harder@wsj.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:55 PM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz  
**Subject:** RE: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

Thanks, Liz. In addition to my other question about the magnitude of this, I have two more:

1. Can you elaborate on what you mean by “field investigation work”?
2. Does this hiatus apply to just hardrock mines or other kinds too? And if other kinds, what kinds?

Thank you so much for answering my questions, as this is kind of a new topic for me!

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**From:** Purchia, Liz [<mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:47 PM

**To:** Purchia, Liz

**Subject:** Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy today sent the below directive to Regional Administrators regarding ongoing field work at mines:

*While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.*